

Bloomfield Record.

S. M. HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1874.

The Next Town Meeting.

Our annual Town Meeting is approaching, and it bids fair to be a most important one. There are matters to be considered and measures taken which concern every citizen and taxpayer. Appropriations for the year are to be made, officers nominated, and a line of policy should be marked out for their guidance, combining wisdom, forethought and economy as well as enterprise and liberality in the management of our town affairs.

Bloomfield has gained an unenviable reputation for non-progressiveness, and it is not our desire, by any means, to enhance this distinction, nor can we favor a rushing pell-mell into prodigal expenditure of money for improvements without due consideration. We are ready to advocate such measures as the mature and deliberate action of our taxpayers shall demand. Having in consideration this principle, let us refer to the assessment of taxes in this town last year. That it was much higher than it ought to have been, considering the improvements we enjoy, all will admit. With unpaved streets, with but partially paved or planked sidewalks, with no police or lock-up, no protection from fire, and yet the tax-rate up to \$2,14—with these facts before us, we may well ask, have we been pursuing a wise plan in our expenditures? Are we getting an adequate return for the money raised? The amount spent last year was some \$23,500 on local necessities and improvements, and to this account must be charged our high rate of taxation.

How much, if any, of the above has been injudiciously voted or misappropriated, we will not say. Probably our duty will be discharged if we bring to the notice of the town officers and the citizens generally what seems to be the prevailing opinion. In regard to street improvements there appears to be the unanimous conviction that it is a useless waste to spend money upon our roads as has been the custom the last few years; that it would be better to leave them undisturbed, unless something more substantial and enduring than mere grading and temporary working is done.

As to the gas-light improvement, its utility, comfort and convenience is acknowledged on all sides. Everybody is pleased with its introduction. But whether the taxpayers of all classes can and will shoulder the burden of paying for the improvement, remains to be seen. It should not be lost sight of that each lamp, after it is first paid for, costs us \$30 per annum for the lighting. We now have 215 lamps, and there are streets anxiously waiting to be lighted up next year, which will bring the number up to at least 300, and, hence, the cost of lighting to \$9,000. Can we stand a yearly tax of that magnitude for gas, in addition to what is absolutely needed to run the town in a respectable manner in other respects? A few months ago, the sentiment of the mass of the taxpayers of Bloomfield, as expressed in one of the largest and most respectable public meeting ever held in the place, was embodied in a resolution requesting the Town Committee not to enter into a contract for lighting the streets until the law could be amended so as to make it more equitable. Notwithstanding that action, the Town Committee thought it best to go forward under its provisions. They adopted as their platform, "a general lighting up, and a general taxation." The pipes were carried well out in the suburbs, in order, it is fair to infer, that those residing in the outskirts could not make the excuse that they were taxed and not benefited. In order to effect this some parts of the thickly settled central portion were omitted, and it may safely be assumed that to carry out the plan of lighting already commenced, not less than 300 lamps, in all, will be required in order to keep peace in the family.

It is for those who have to pay the heavy tax, made necessary by this general lighting up to consider and vote upon its expediency, and indicate their views in regard to street lighting in the future. The opinion of many thoughtful citizens is that the township cannot afford to spend so large an amount on this single improvement. We should not forget that the permanent mapping, laying out, and grading of the town has been commenced, and will also involve a heavy but nevertheless necessary expenditure.

All the foregoing questions should be carefully considered at the anticipated meeting, and such action taken as the present and future welfare and interests of the township shall require.

Sunday night was the coldest of the season, the thermometer indicating a degree or two below zero. The cold term was followed by a snow-storm which set in on Monday evening, the snow falling to a depth of about six inches, and making very good sleighing. The snow plows were promptly out and the side walks were more generally cleared than we have noticed heretofore. The sprightly letter of a lady in our paper recently bearing on this subject, seems to be having a good effect.

Rev. Dr. Palmer, D. D., preached an excellent sermon in the First Presbyterian church last Sunday morning. At the close of the service an election for elders resulted in the selection of Messrs. W. W. Wyman, Chas. Osborn and J. W. Potter. In the evening Dr. Palmer again preached to a larger audience than usually assembles in the Old Church Sunday evening.

Ladies' Relief Association of Bloomfield.
The meeting held on Friday at the residence of Mrs. D. B. Coe, of the "Ladies Relief Committee of Bloomfield," was well attended. The preamble and resolutions were again read, which had been adopted at the preceding meeting and were as follows:

Whereas, there are in Bloomfield poor people who for various reasons are in need of assistance, and are deserving of the same; and whereas, these have no claims upon any person, or society able to supply their need, Therefore,

Resolved, That a Committee called the "Ladies Relief Committee of Bloomfield" be formed.

That this Committee shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and fifteen Managers.

That of these, one officer, and three managers be furnished by each of the following churches: The First Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and Episcopalian.

That the duties of the President shall be to call meetings of the Committee, and to preside at such meetings.

That the duty of the first Vice President shall be to fill the office of the President when for any reason the President shall fail to do so.

That the duty of the second Vice President shall be to fill the office of the President when for any reason the President and first Vice President shall fail to do so.

That the duties of the Secretary shall be to write all letters, notices, minutes of meetings, and keep records of persons relieved, and the relief afforded them.

That the duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive and disburse all moneys, take and give all necessary receipts, and keep all accounts of all receipts and expenditures.

That the duties of the managers shall be to receive contributions of money, clothing &c., to visit the poor commended to their notice, to search out others, to study into the needs and worthiness of such objects of charity as come within the scope of the Committee, to consult with the officers and each other with regard to the disposal of funds, clothing &c., and make such disposals as shall be decided upon, &c. &c. The following Officers were elected by ballot:

President, Mrs. James A. Hadden, M. E. Church; First Vice President, Mrs. D. B. Coe, Presbyterian Church; Second Vice President, Mrs. Garrabrant, Baptist Church; Secretary, Mrs. R. N. Dodd, Episcopal Church; Treasurer, Miss Anna L. Ward, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The fifteen managers appointed were as follows: First Presbyterian Church, Mrs. T. McGowan, Mrs. J. F. Randolph, Mrs. A. T. Morris, Methodist Church, Mrs. J. W. Snedeker, Mrs. S. Carl, Mrs. E. Wilde, Baptist Church, Mrs. C. W. Jones, Miss Jennie W. Smalley, Miss Mary Willett, Westminster Church, Mrs. Fred. Crane, Miss Fannie Beach, Miss Margaret Williamson, Episcopal Church, Mrs. Dr. Cyrus Weeks, Mrs. C. W. Johnson, Mrs. E. S. Wilde.

Any of the above ladies will receive the donations, which are solicited from the citizens of Bloomfield immediately, as there are many needy among us who require immediate assistance. Any donations of clothing, provisions, &c., can be sent to the rooms of the Committee, at the residence of Mrs. Charles W. Johnson, opposite Westminster church, where the managers will meet and make the necessary distributions.

Money, which is equally acceptable, or orders, can be sent to the Treasurer, Miss Anna L. Ward.

It is sincerely hoped the people of this town will respond promptly to this call, so that the work may progress with promptness, and the suffering be relieved.

By order of Relief Committee,
Mrs. R. N. Dodd, Sec.

BLOOMFIELD, Feb. 2d.

A meeting of the officers, and managers of the society will be held on Monday, Feb. 9th inst., at 3 o'clock P. M. prompt, at the residence of Mrs. S. Carl.

Hope Chapel.

The Third Anniversary of Hope Chapel Sunday School took place last Sunday afternoon. The exercises, consisting of scriptural recitations and singing by the children, passed off in a pleasant and satisfactory manner, evincing for the teachers a marked degree of faithfulness and patient well-doing in their self-sacrificing labors, and for the pupils an aptitude and interest in Bible study which was highly creditable.

At the conclusion of the exercises, Mr. John F. Seymour, the efficient Superintendent, made a brief address, in which he spoke touchingly of the loss by death, of two teachers and two scholars within the past year, and exhorted the School to continued efforts of zeal and faithfulness.

The Treasurer, Mr. G. H. Hulin, made a detailed report in which it was shown, that after paying all the current expenses of the school for the year, there was yet remaining a small surplus of about \$55.00. Several friends of the mission from the churches in the village were present, and through Mr. H. B. Sheldon, the amount was once subscribed and made up. The attendance of children is as large as it has been at any time since the organization, and the parents and friends of many were there to witness and participate in the interesting exercises.

Samuel Cole of Flatbrookville, Sussex county, recently lost a valuable span of horses from hydrophobia. A short time previously one of them was bitten by a dog, but at the latter did not betray any symptoms of mania; nothing was thought of it until recently the horse manifested undoubted signs of the disease and bit his team companion so savagely that Mr. Cole felt compelled to kill them both.

Bloomfield Orphan Asylum Society.

The Managers of the Bloomfield Orphan Asylum Society, thinking that a statement in regard to what this Society is doing might be of interest to its patrons, voted at their last meeting, that a public statement be made. Many hear nothing of this Society except once a year when they are called upon for their subscriptions. Every one who contributes to this Society is considered a member of the same. A public meeting is held every year, the last Thursday in January, to which all are invited but few come. At the last meeting the following officers were re-elected:

President, Mrs. E. W. Page: Vice President, Mrs. M. M. Bradley; Treasurer, Miss M. Fanny Dodd; Secretary, Mrs. Jas. A. Hadden; Manager from the First Presbyterian Church, Mrs. E. W. Page, Mrs. M. W. Dodd, Mrs. Hattie Oakes, Miss M. Fanny Dodd. From Westminster Church, Mrs. Dr. White, Mrs. Fred. Crane, Mrs. M. M. Bradley, Miss M. Williamson. From the Methodist Church, Mrs. Samuel Carl, Mrs. Chas. P. Ross, Mrs. S. E. Northrop, Mrs. J. A. Hadden. From the Baptist Church, Mrs. David Cairns, Mrs. Sarah Cairns, Mrs. David Garrabrant, Miss Jenny Smalley. From the Episcopal Church, Mrs. E. S. Wilde, Mrs. Dr. E. Macfarlan, Mrs. Andrew Gorsline, Mrs. Chas. Johnson, to which are added the wife of the Minister from each of the above Churches.

There are three children in the Newark Asylum supported by the Bloomfield Society, two hundred dollars having been paid for their support last year; also about forty dollars was expended to fit out and send to a home in Iowa a boy who had been in the Asylum from Bloomfield for some years.

In September the children from the Essex 61 in number came to Bloomfield by invitation of this Society and enjoyed a picnic. At this time the Ladies from Newark made an appeal to this Society for a subscription toward the building of the wing of the Asylum now in contemplation. The Society voted to give them one hundred dollars when needed, and in view of this as well as the Society's needs a liberal collection is solicited when the collectors make their annual visit in June.

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Novel Temperance Movement.

The Ladies in the Western States have inaugurated a singular crusade against the liquor traffic. It seems to have originated in Ohio. Deputations of ladies besiege the tavern and saloon keepers, imploring them to give up their business. They congregate outside the saloons and when a man attempts to enter to get a drink they blockade the doors. Again they organize prayer meetings on the sidewalks and even in the bar-rooms. The effect upon saloon keepers, is generally that of consternation, and they are at a loss what to do about it.

At Hillsboro, a picayune druggist named Dunn issued a printed notice warning the ladies against trespassing on his premises in this unlawful way, and threatening to prosecute them and the gentlemen who supported them, for their unlawful and riotous acts unless they discontinued the same.

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The officers of the Bloomfield Savings Institution have recently purchased a new safe. It is quite a novelty, being probably the largest one in town. It is 440 feet high, 4 feet wide and weighs 440 pounds; the outside casing is 7 inch thick—and the doors, which are very heavily and elegantly ornamented, are fastened with a patent combination lock, capable of over 20,000 changes.

The burglar proof or inner safe is in itself quite a curiosity, the door being 5 inches thick, 3 inches of which are composed of alternate layers of chilled iron and steel secured by a second combination lock which swings two ponderous steel bolts, fastening on both sides, thus securing it in case the hinges should be wracked off.

The people of Bloomfield, we think, are very well provided for in the banking line, and being thus amply secured against loss, we would say, patronize home institutions.

The will of Harriet Olive, the stewardess of the Villa du Havre, has been offered for probate by her daughter, Dr. de Voe; citation returned January 17, the stewardess had accumulated about \$2,000. Her husband and next of kin of this only child, the petitioner, Mrs. de Voe of 54 King street, and the testatrix's husband, John Olive, in Havre. The stewardess made her will a few days before she sailed on the fatal trip, bequeathing all to her daughter, and appointed her executrix. The instrument was written on one leaf.

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